



JUNE 2015



Carol Cook Hagood, Editor

## President's Message

Wow, this year is flying by.....! When did it get to be June!?! There are so many things happening right now!

**First, we'd like to officially welcome the 2015 Intern Class to the Jefferson County Master Gardener Association.** We hope you will join us for meetings (2nd Tuesdays, 10 a.m.) prior to the graduation event. Pat Cosgrove has planned some great programs for this summer, so please check her column for that news! For those who are not available during the day, we have an evening meeting in June, as well. We usually have a hospitality time before the meeting, so come a little early for good food and a chance to get to know other members. We have enjoyed having a few of you join us in past months and hope others will come, as well. The summer 2015 MG class starts June 9, and we welcome those Interns, too!

**We have a lot of business to conduct this summer.** Many of you have heard at meetings or around at events that **we (Alabama MGs) have been invited to host the 2018 Southern Regional MG Meeting.** It will be held in Fall 2018, and planning is beginning now. Because we are being asked to host this in Birmingham and this requires significant organization, we will be creating a "Cabinet" and committees for this conference. **At the same time, the JCMGA must continue its routine work. We are going to need a lot of people to do both.** If you have questions or interest in volunteering on either side of this, please let me know. We will need to get these roles defined and filled in the next month or two. Please give some thought to where your talents and skills may best be used. **To borrow from a Lady Antebellum lyric, it's June 2015 and we need you, now!!**

**One of the "pillars" of the Master Gardener Program is the volunteer work that is done. There are many opportunities for community service, some "hands on" in gardens, others more supportive. If you are looking for volunteer opportunities, please see Bethany O'Rear, or Taylor Steele, our Community Services chair. Taylor works with the BBG volunteers, and is also a marvelous resource for broader opportunities.**

*(continued on page 2)*

## JCMGA June Program Notes

**COME EARLY AND  
BRING A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR!**

**Tuesday, June 9, 10 a.m.**  
**Birmingham Botanical Gardens Auditorium**  
**Jim Jacobi, "Bugs"**

**Tuesday, June 16, 6 p.m.**  
**Birmingham Botanical Gardens**  
**David Doggett, "Propagating Hydrangeas"**

**We are happy to announce that our June 9 regular monthly meeting is a necessity to all gardeners: the bugs are really everywhere, but our hero Jim Jacobi is on his way to head 'em up and move 'em out.**

This is going to be a great program! Just follow his expert advice—that's all you have to do. So *do not* miss this meeting.

**Remember that our second night meeting of the year is Tuesday, June 16, at 6 p.m., and our speaker is the one and only David Doggett.**

*No one* knows hydrangeas like David. His program will be on propagating hydrangeas. It really works, and being the foster parent to the small cuttings gives you such a feeling of pride, not to mention the beauty it brings to your garden.

You will be proud to be a Master Gardener. See you Tuesday evening.

**So please plan now to grab a friend or a neighbor and join your fellow Master Gardeners for both of our June meetings! Show your appreciation to our speakers with a good turnout.**

We will miss you if you don't show up.

**Pat**

Pat Cosgrove, First Vice President

Upcoming Events



Photo by Sharon Leader 2013

ANNOUNCING  
 The Birmingham Fern Society's  
 39<sup>th</sup> Annual  
 Show & Sale!

Wednesday, June 17, 2015  
 1 to 6 p.m.  
 Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**Butterfly Education and Awareness Day**  
**June 13, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**  
**Free Admission**

The Birmingham Botanical Gardens hosts this now-annual event with a number of area partners, including the Birmingham Zoo, Ruffner Mountain Preserve, the Alabama Wildlife Center, and the McWane Science Center, as well as friends from Fresh Air Family, ACES, and the BBG Native Plant Group.

Birmingham Zoo presents children's activities 10 – 2, with butterfly releases scheduled for 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. McWane will also host children's activities from 10 – 2, and Fresh Air Family hosts "Hikes for Tykes," a 10 a.m. walk for pre-schoolers and their parents, led by Verna Gates. This hike will focus on butterfly lore, legend and stories based on Monarch butterflies.

Native plants which will attract butterflies to your gardens will be available for purchase.

Sara Bright and Paulette Ogard, co-authors of *Butterflies of Alabama: Glimpses Into Their Lives*, will also offer a family-oriented slide presentation on native butterflies and how they can be protected.

*(President's Message continued)*

Take a look at your "portfolio" of hours, and congratulate yourself if there is diversity in the places and kinds of volunteer hours you are working.

**That is how the MG model is intended to work! ....and thank you, all of you, for the wonderful work that is accomplished each year.**

For those who may be interested, **registration is now underway for the International MG meeting held this year in Iowa.** A link is included for your use: <http://mastergardener.unl.edu/imgc2015>.

I also want to make a turn to some very sad news. We have lost additional MG family members since our last Newsletter. LeAnne Porter passed away several weeks ago, and the family is planning a memorial service on June 6 at 3 p.m. Karen Mitchell's husband, Jim, also passed away recently. We send our deep condolences to both families.

**Ann Gray**  
 Ann Gray Harvey, President

**Cumulative CEU Hours from 2015 Meetings**

January 13 (Brooke McMinn)	1.0 CEU
February Reach for the Stars program	(no CEU)
March 10 (Sallie Lee and Sloss Group)	1.25 CEU
March 17 (Bethany O'Rear)	1.0 CEU
April 14 (Eleanor Craig)	1.25 CEU
May 12 (Plant Swap: Leonora, Linda, Melanie)	1.0 CEU

**Treasurer's Report**

**May 2015**

Beginning balance May 1, 2015	\$8,765.67
Deposits	\$110.50
Disbursements	\$500.00
Ending balance April 30, 2015	<u>\$8,376.17</u>

---Submitted by Tom Douglass, Treasurer

## May 2015 Minutes

### Jefferson County Master Gardeners' Association Meeting – May 12, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the JCMGA was held on May 12, 2015 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG). There were approximately 50 members present. President Ann Gray Harvey called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

**President's Report and Routine Business:** President Ann Gray welcomed all attending today's meeting including one visitor and two new members from the 2015 Master Gardener Class.

She asked that members check the membership roster located at the sign-in table to verify that contact information listed is correct, and announced that stars and awards not yet picked up were available at the sign-in table. She also said that an order for new name badges will be placed soon. Members who need a name badge should let Linda Systrom or Ann Gray know.

**Board Report:** Ann Gray announced that the Board met on April 14, 2015. A request for a contribution to the Central South Native Plant Conference had been received and the Board voted unanimously to approve a \$500 donation.

**Secretary's Report:** Ann Gray asked if there were changes or corrections to the April 14 meeting Minutes. A motion was made to approve the Minutes as published in the May 2015 Newsletter. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the membership.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ann Gray asked if there were any corrections or concerns regarding the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made to accept the Report as published in the May 2015 Newsletter. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the membership.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Hospitality Committee:** Martha Picardy said that there was a need for Greeters at each of the monthly meetings. Martha said that a sign-up sheet was available at the sign-in table for members interested in serving in this capacity.

**Community Service Committee:** Taylor thanked all of the volunteers who have been assisting in the vegetable garden. Hope Cooper and Kathy Connolly are coordinating the volunteer group. Members interested in volunteering should let Hope or Kathy know.

There were no other committee reports.

**Extension Report:** Bethany O'Rear said that volunteers are needed to staff the Master Gardener booth for the rescheduled Earth Day at the Gardens on Sunday, May 31. Coverage is needed for the 1–3 p.m. time slot.

Butterfly Awareness Day is scheduled for June 13 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Volunteers are needed and interested members should contact Bethany.

Bethany said that there are still spots available for the Summer Master Gardener Class. Interested applicants should let Bethany know by Friday. The class is scheduled to start the first full week of June.

**Birmingham Botanical Gardens:** Taylor Steele said that there are volunteer opportunities available for Earth Day and Butterfly Awareness Day. Urban Farm Camp for children ages 9 – 13 will be held June 22 – 26. Volunteers are needed to assist with this camp.

**Community Service Spotlight:** Taylor Steele introduced Edwina Hampton. Ms. Hampton is the Director of the Central Park Recreation Center. Ms. Hampton said that across from the Recreation Center is a vacant lot where a house burned. She along with other volunteers from the community have cleared the lot and would like to plant a community garden. She would like to see the neighborhood children involved and take ownership of particular plants. She said that they are in need of some advice to get this started. Please contact Ms. Hampton if you can assist with this project. She can be reached at 923-6747 or 746-5475 or by e-mail at [ehampton1973@hotmail.com](mailto:ehampton1973@hotmail.com).

*(Continued below)*

*(May 2015 Minutes, continued)*

**Other Volunteer Needs:** Gary Walker said that Ruffner Mountain is having a workday on Thursday, May 14. Volunteers are needed. If you are available, you can just show up or contact Jamie Nobles for additional information.

**Announcements:** Ken Hall announced that the annual Fern Society Lecture will be held May 20 with lectures at 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. A reception will be held between the two lectures. The 4 p.m. speaker is Naud Burnett, CEO and founder of Casa Flora in Dallas, Texas, who will talk about propagating ferns. The 6 p.m. speaker is Dr. Eddie Watkins, President of the American Fern Society, whose talk is entitled “Searching the World for Ferns.” All are welcome, and the lectures are free.

**Program: Annual Plant Swap with Leonora Roberson**

This annual event was facilitated by Leonora with assistance from Linda Emerson and Melanie Johns. Leonora went through each of the plants, giving a brief description of each plant’s attributes. This process is always educational and entertaining. As in the past, Leonora reiterated that plants should not be invasive, should be potted several weeks before the plant swap, and be well cared for to be eligible for entry into the swap.

Leonora, with assistance from Ken Hall, drew numbers for participating members to select their plants. President Ann Gray thanked Leonora, Linda and Melanie for their assistance with today’s event.

**Door Prize:**

The money raffle today was won by Taylor Steele.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Today’s activity is accredited for 1 hour of CEU.

Respectfully submitted ,  
Alicia Hall, Secretary

### Photos from the Birmingham Fern Society Lecture Series

On May 20 and 21, the Birmingham Fern Society presented an outstanding event in the 2015 edition of its ongoing lecture series; many of our fellow Master Gardeners participated in planning, producing, or attending this event.

This year’s evening presentation featured lectures by Naud Burnett, CEO of Casa Flora, Dallas, a well-known landscape architect, who spoke on “Propagation of Ferns,” and by Dr. Eddie Watkins, a native of Alabama, who is an associate professor of biology at Colgate University, and is currently president of the American Fern Society.

Dr. Watkins spoke on “Searching the World for Ferns.” Between lectures, members of the Society hosted a truly sumptuous reception, with a wide variety of wonderful homemade delights.

The following day, an informative guided tour of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens Fern Glade was offered, concluding with a picnic lunch.

Alicia Hall shares the following photos from this very successful event.



Naud Burnett



Dr. Eddie Watkins



Guided Tour of the Fern Glade

## Upcoming Event at Aldridge Gardens

To find information about other events or to register for classes, visit <http://aldridgegardens.com>.

### Art in the Gardens: Saturday and Sunday, June 13-14

Stroll through the Gardens and see the works of some of the best artists in the country, and, of course, shop! A multitude of artisans will compete for category and best of show awards in this juried open-air show that features only Alabama artists. Returning again this year will be crowd favorite jewelry artist Julie Jackson, plus many fresh faces in woodworking, jewelry, glass, fiber, sculpture, painting, watercolor, photography, drawing, clay, printmaking, and mixed media.

Food will be available for purchase, and an ATM will be onsite in the Aldridge House.

*Your \$5 per person entry fee supports the arts at Aldridge Gardens - visitors younger than 16 get in free.*

*Off-site parking with shuttles will be available at the Bed Bath & Beyond parking area on Lorna Road. The shuttles will run from 30 minutes before the show begins until 30 minutes after the show ends on Saturday and Sunday.*

## Volunteer Opportunities at Aldridge Gardens

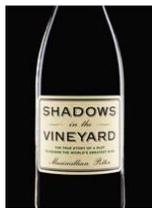
If you are interested in volunteering at Aldridge Gardens and would like more information, contact Phyllis Giles at 205-682-8019, or send an email to [volunteer@aldridgegardens.com](mailto:volunteer@aldridgegardens.com). For more information, visit the Aldridge Gardens website.

## News from the Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

For more information, visit [www.bbgardens.org/library](http://www.bbgardens.org/library).

**The Junior Master Gardener program** engages children in novel, hands-on group and individual learning experiences that promote a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment, and cultivate the mind. JMG also inspires youths to be of service to others. For more information, see [www.bbgardens.org/classes](http://www.bbgardens.org/classes).

### Thyme to Read book club:



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, June 2, 6 p.m. in the Library at BBG to discuss *Shadows in the Vineyard: The True Story of the Plot to Poison the World's Greatest Wine* by Maximillian Potter.

For a full listing of book club selections for the coming year, visit the Library web site (see above).

Come join the group!

### Art Gallery in June: Works by Jeannie Cook

**Main Art Gallery:** The work of Jeannie Cook continues in The Art Gallery at The Gardens during the month of June.

Learn more about Jeannie Cook's work at [www.jeanniecook.com](http://www.jeanniecook.com)

### Library Volunteers Needed

Jason Kirby notes that the Library at the Gardens has an immediate need for additional volunteers on 3rd Saturdays (1-4 p.m.), 5th Saturdays (1-4 p.m.), 2nd Sundays (2-5 p.m.), and Wednesdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m.). Please contact Taylor Steele at 205-414-3962 or [tsteele@bbgardens.org](mailto:tsteele@bbgardens.org) for more information and a volunteer application.

## Educational Opportunities at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Register online at [www.bbgardens.org](http://www.bbgardens.org) or, for more information, call Dawn Coleman at 205-414-3958.

*Among upcoming classes at BBG - look online for more opportunities:*

### **Water Features of the Gardens**

**Instructor: Hank Siegel**

**Saturday, June 20 | 9-noon**

**Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

**\$65 members | \$75 non-members**

Birmingham Botanical Gardens is a target destination for photographers throughout the Southeast, and offers many beautiful and interesting sights for them to capture with their cameras. Some of the most stunning and impact-laden images are those of the Gardens' many and varied water features. Fountains, pools and ponds, streams and waterfalls all offer the photographer, professional or amateur, the chance to capture images that have that "WOW" factor that we all strive for.

Class Requirements: Digital SLR Camera (a Tripod not mandatory, but useful)

+ A basic knowledge of the camera's operation (know how to use the different operational modes.)

## Certificate in Native Plant Studies Program

Find more information or register for classes online at <http://www.bbgardens.org/native-plant-studies.php>.

*Among upcoming CNPS classes and events---look online for additional opportunities:*

(You don't need to be enrolled in the entire series to attend this, or any other CNPS offerings.)

### **Introduction to Native Plant Conservation (core)**

**Instructor: Bob Boyd PhD**

**Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

**Saturday, August 22 | 8:30-4:30 p.m.**

**\$80 Members | \$90 Non-Members**

The flora of Alabama is one of the richest in the country, which underscores the importance of conserving our plants and their habitats.

This course is a general introduction to plant conservation, focusing particularly on Alabama plants. We will cover a broad set of topics, including rarity ranking systems, invasive species, restoration ecology, conservation ethics, conservation legislation and conservation methods such as safeguarding. Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance projects will be emphasized as examples.

**Check online for other upcoming CNPS classes and field trips;  
they often fill fast, so plan ahead!**

## Volunteer Opportunities in Native Plant Studies

**Volunteer Workdays:** Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator John Manion will lead a volunteer session in the Kaul Wildflower Garden on June 2.

For more information on this and other volunteer opportunities, write John Manion at [jmanion@bbgardens.org](mailto:jmanion@bbgardens.org).

## Are You Using the JCMGA Website to Full Advantage?

Our Master Gardener website is a genuinely *wonderful* resource: you can find up-to-date information about coming events, volunteer opportunities and CEU's—as well as links to previous *Roots and Shoots* and a gallery of photos. Hit a button and you can easily post your volunteer hours through the website—or link to the ACES website with all its resources.

The snippet shown at right is just a hint of all you can find. Did you happen to miss Bethany's recent excellent presentation on Apps—or Dr. Kris Bar's "All Bugs Good and Bad," a helpful webinar about beneficial (and not so beneficial) garden insects? Never fear; you can access them on the website!

Want to learn what's available in the next offering of the Lunch & Learn series...or in other classes for Master Gardeners...or what's coming up in our very next meetings? Click for this and other useful calendar info.

Many MG's find that one of their favorite features is the icon that lets you easily access the Master Gardener Service Report, so you can record those hours quickly.

So don't wait a minute longer to make use of this great resource. Check us out at [www.jeffcomg.org](http://www.jeffcomg.org).



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**We're on the Web! Visit us at [www.jeffcomg.org](http://www.jeffcomg.org).**

**Also see Facebook pages for *Jefferson County Cooperative Extension System* and *Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association***